

## Richmond Division

Civil Action No. 3:12CV559

The Court has scheduled this case for a settlement conference on **March 20, 2013**, at **9:30 a.m.** At that time, the parties shall report to the chambers of Magistrate Judge David J. Novak. In addition to counsel, each party must have a representative physically present with the full authority to settle this action.<sup>1</sup> If a business entity (or entities) is/are involved, each entity must have a representative with full authority to settle the case on behalf of that entity physically present and the representative must be an officer or employee not employed in the business entity's law department or general counsel's office, although such lawyers are welcome to attend with the other representative. **The failure of a party to have a representative physically present with full authority to settle the case may result in the imposition of sanctions upon that party.**

<sup>1</sup> The term “full authority” means the ability of the representative to resolve the case up to the value of the last demand by the Plaintiff.

- An objective overview of the basic allegations, defenses and relevant facts;
- A realistic assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each party's position;
- A summary of settlement discussions to date;
- A statement of settlement expectations (to include settlement offers(s));
- A list of the names and positions of those who will attend the settlement conference on behalf of the party, including identification of the person(s) with the full authority to settle the case on behalf of the party; and,
- A certification that a person with full authority to settle the case on behalf of the party will be physically present at the settlement conference.

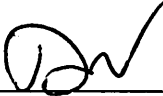
Due to the *ex parte* nature of the settlement memorandum, it should be delivered directly to the Court's chambers (either by e-mail or by hand delivery of a hard copy) and not filed with the Clerk's Office. The memorandum will be considered and maintained on a confidential basis until resolution of the case, when the memorandum will then be destroyed. The memorandum will not be exchanged (or its contents discussed) with opposing parties or counsel by the Court without prior permission.

The settlement conference will begin with all parties and their counsel/representatives present. The Court will explain its role and the manner that the settlement conference will be conducted. Thereafter, the parties will be separated and the Court will meet with counsel for each side until a resolution is achieved. When an agreement is reached, the Court will be prepared to reduce the agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding, which will be enforceable upon the parties as a contract. Thereafter, the parties will have ten (10) days to complete the final settlement agreement consistent with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding. Should the parties wish to draft their own settlement agreement at the settlement conference in lieu of the Memorandum of Understanding, they may do so, but the parties must bring with them to the settlement conference a laptop with a thumb drive containing a draft settlement agreement.

If the matter is not settled, the Court will simply inform the designated trial judge that the matter was not resolved despite the parties' good faith efforts (provided that the parties comply with the conditions of this Order and act in good faith during the settlement conference).

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to all counsel of record and to any party not represented by counsel.

It is so ORDERED.

                    /s/                       
David J. Novak  
United States Magistrate Judge

Richmond, Virginia

Date: December 11, 2012